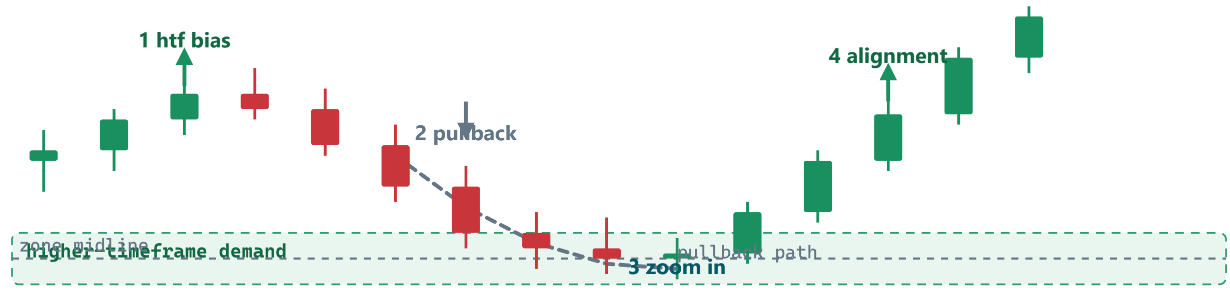
FIELD GUIDE · FOUNDATIONS

Timeframes and top-down analysis

The higher timeframe shows the big-picture bias; a lower timeframe shows the smaller moves inside it. Reading them big to small is called top-down analysis.

QUANTREEF
market microstructure



PHASE 1 · THE BIG PICTURE

Higher timeframe bias

On a slow, zoomed-out chart, price has been holding above a broad demand area. This wider view sets the context, often called the bias: the direction the larger structure is leaning.

PHASE 2 · THE PULLBACK

Price returns to the zone

Price drifts back down toward that same higher-timeframe demand area. On the big picture nothing has broken; this is simply a pullback into a level that already mattered.

PHASE 3 · ZOOM IN

Lower timeframe detail

Switching to a faster chart reveals a smaller move inside the zone — a brief dip and stabilisation. The lower timeframe adds detail the higher one hides, showing how price behaves up close.

PHASE 4 · ALIGNMENT

The two views agree

The small stabilisation happens right where the big-picture demand sits. When the higher-timeframe context and the lower-timeframe detail point the same way, students describe the timeframes as aligned.

Key terms

Higher timeframe — A zoomed-out chart (each candle covers a longer period) used to read the broad structure and bias.

Lower timeframe — A zoomed-in chart with shorter candles, used to see detail and fine-tune the timing of a move.

Bias — The direction the larger structure appears to lean, based on the higher-timeframe picture.

Alignment — When the higher and lower timeframes point the same way and their stories agree.

How to read & use it

Read big to small

Top-down means starting on the higher timeframe to find context, then zooming in. The order matters: detail makes more sense once you know the bigger picture around it.

Let context frame detail

A small move looks very different depending on where it sits. The same dip means one thing inside a big demand area and another in open space — the higher timeframe supplies that framing.

Alignment is a lens, not a promise

Timeframes agreeing is a way to organise what you see, not a guarantee of what happens next. Markets can move against any read, on any timeframe.

HOW TO READ THIS ON QUANTREEF

Anything Quantreef shows about timeframes or alignment is descriptive context for learning — a way to organise the chart, not a signal, recommendation, or prediction. It never tells you to buy or sell, and it makes no promise about what price will do next.